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8	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT			
9	NORTHERN DISTR	ICT OF CALIFORNIA		
10	OAKLAN	D DIVISION		
11				
12	DEEP WEB, L.L.C.,	CASE NO. 4:20-CV-02262-JSW		
13	Plaintiff,	DEFENDANT'S ANSWER TO COMPLAINT, AFFIRMATIVE		
14	v.	DEFENSES, AND COUNTERCLAIMS		
15	ASK MEDIA GROUP, LLC,	Judge Jeffrey S. White		
16	Defendant.	Filed: April 2, 2020		
17		Trial Date: None Set		
	ASK MEDIA GROUP, LLC,			
18	Counterclaim-Plaintiff,			
19	V.			
20				
21	DEEP WEB, L.L.C.,			
22	Counterclaim-Defendant.			
23		•		
24				
25	REDACTED VERSION OF DOC	UMENT SOUGHT TO BE SEALED		
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Defendant and Counterclaim-Plaintiff Ask Media Group, LLC ("Defendant" or "AMG"), by and through its undersigned counsel, hereby answers the Complaint [D.I. 1] filed by Plaintiff Deep Web, L.L.C. ("Plaintiff" or "DW"). AMG hereby responds in numbered paragraphs corresponding to the numbered paragraphs of the Complaint:

## **PARTIES**

- 1. AMG lacks knowledge regarding the pleadings of Paragraph 1, and on that basis, denies them.
  - 2. Admitted.

## **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 3. AMG admits that DW purports to assert an action for patent infringement under 35 U.S.C. §§ 271(a)-(b), 281, and 284-85. AGM admits that this Court has subject matter jurisdiction over DW's claims. Except as so expressly admitted, denied.
- 4. AMG admits that it has a regular place of business at 555 12<sup>th</sup> St. Ste. 400, Oakland, CA 94607. AMG admits, for the purposes of this lawsuit, that venue is proper in this district. Except as so expressly admitted, denied.
- 5. AMG admits, for the purposes of this lawsuit, that this Court has personal jurisdiction over it. Except as so expressly admitted, denied.

#### THE DEEP WEB PATENTS

- 6. AMG admits that a document purporting to be U.S. Patent No. 7,693,956 (the "'956 patent") was attached to the Complaint as Exhibit A. AMG lacks knowledge regarding the remaining pleadings of Paragraph 6, and on that basis, denies them.
- 7. AMG lacks knowledge regarding the pleadings of Paragraph 7, and on that basis, denies them.
- 8. AMG lacks knowledge regarding the pleadings of Paragraph 8, and on that basis, denies them.
  - 9. Denied.
- 10. AMG lacks knowledge regarding the pleadings of Paragraph 10, and on that basis, denies them.

	11.	AMG admits that a document purporting to be U.S. Patent No. 8,321,529 (the "529
patent'	') was a	tached to the Complaint as Exhibit B. AMG lacks knowledge regarding the remaining
pleadir	ngs of P	aragraph 11, and on that basis, denies them.

- 12. AMG lacks knowledge regarding the pleadings of Paragraph 12, and on that basis, denies them.
- 13. AMG lacks knowledge regarding the pleadings of Paragraph 13, and on that basis, denies them.
- 14. AMG lacks knowledge regarding the pleadings of Paragraph 14, and on that basis, denies them.
  - 15. Denied.

- 16. AMG lacks knowledge regarding the pleadings of Paragraph 16, and on that basis, denies them.
- 17. AMG admits that a document purporting to be U.S. Patent No. 8,645,493 (the "'493 patent" and, along with the '956 patent and '526 patent, the "patents-in-suit") was attached to the Complaint as Exhibit C. AMG lacks knowledge regarding the remaining pleadings of Paragraph 17, and on that basis, denies them.
- 18. AMG lacks knowledge regarding the pleadings of Paragraph 18, and on that basis, denies them.
- 19. AMG lacks knowledge regarding the pleadings of Paragraph 19, and on that basis, denies them.
- 20. AMG lacks knowledge regarding the pleadings of Paragraph 20, and on that basis, denies them.
  - 21. Denied.
- 22. AMG lacks knowledge regarding the pleadings of Paragraph 22, and on that basis, denies them.

#### COUNT I—INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 7,693,956

- 23. Denied.
- 24. Denied.

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- 50. Denied.
- 51. Denied.
- 52. Denied.
- 53. AMG admits that it provides instructions and support to its customers regarding the use and operation of <a href="www.ask.com">www.ask.com</a>. Except as so expressly admitted, denied.
  - 54. Denied.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

AMG denies that DW is entitled to any of the relief it seeks, and denies the DW is entitled to any other relief in connection with this action.

WHEREFORE, AMG respectfully requests that this Court:

- A. Dismiss DW's Complaint with prejudice;
- B. Enter a judgment in favor of AMG on DW's Complaint;
- C. Award AMG its costs of suit;
  - D. Declare this case exceptional and award AMG its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285; and
  - E. Award AMD such other or additional relief as the Court deems just and proper.

#### **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

AMG hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

#### **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

AMG hereby asserts the following affirmative defenses. The assertion of any affirmative defense is not an admission that AMG bears the burden of proof on any affirmative defense or issue, and is not an assumption of the burden of proof with respect to any issue. AMG reserves the right to amend its Answer and to assert additional affirmative defenses as further information becomes available, including but not limited to, those related to unenforceability of all patents asserted in this action based on inequitable conduct.

#### First Affirmative Defense

AMG has not and does not infringe, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, any valid and enforceable claim of the patents-in-suit.

## **Second Affirmative Defense**

AMG has not and does not induce the infringement of any valid and enforceable claim of the patents-in-suit.

# **Third Affirmative Defense**

The claims of the patents-in-suit are invalid and/or unenforceable for failing to comply with one or more requirements of the Patent Laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.*, including, but not limited to, §§ 101, 102, 103, and/or 112.

By way of example only, the claims of the patents-in-suit are invalid under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for purporting to claim abstract subject matter, *e.g.*, by purporting to claim computer code (including but not limited to computer code performing only routine and ordinary functions).

By way of example only, any one or a combination of any of the following prior art references, on its/their own or in combination with the knowledge of a person of ordinary skill in the art, render the claims of the patents-in-suit invalid under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and/or 103:

- IncyWincy
- "Loop Improvements Launches IncyWincy, the Invisible Web Search Engine"
- U.S. Patent No. 6,993,569
- U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0049687 A1
- U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0049676 A1
- U.S. Patent No. 7,277,923
- U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/123991
- U.S. Patent No. 6,718,365
- U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0046117 B1

The preceding list is not exhaustive and is not intended to be limiting. AMG reserves the right to add to or supplement these prior art references in connection with its preliminary invalidity contentions and/or otherwise in accordance with the case schedule.

By way of example only, the claims of the patents-in-suit are invalid under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as indefinite, including, but not limited to, because the claims recite unspecified and undefined terms including but not limited to "a [first/second] of the answers associated with a [first/second] information page of a [first/second] information location having information associated with the search criteria," "at least one input field displayed on the answer page, the input field being associated with the second information page," "index indexing to the second information location from which the input field is generated," "the index including the one or more search criteria and a set of one or more associated parameters," "the set of one or more associated parameters including at least one parameter variable corresponding to the at least one input field," "a plurality of indexes indexing information available on a plurality of information locations," "information potentially associated with at least a one of the plurality of search criteria," "wherein at least one of the answers includes at least one input means of a query answer page," "the query answer page is to be dynamically generated," "the at least another one of the answers is associated with a static information page that is not dynamically generated."

# **Fourth Affirmative Defense**

DW's claims for damages for alleged patent infringement (which AMG denies) are limited by 35 U.S.C. § 286 to alleged infringement committed no more than six years prior to the filing of the Complaint.

#### **Fifth Affirmative Defense**

DW's claims for damages for alleged patent infringement (which AMG denies) are limited by 35 U.S.C. § 287 to the date of notice of infringement, *i.e.* the date of the filing of DW's Complaint in this action.

# **Sixth Affirmative Defense**

DW's claims for relief for alleged patent infringement (which AMG denies) are barred under the doctrine of prosecution history estoppel, and DW is estopped from asserting that the patents-insuit cover or include any of AMG's apparatuses, systems, methods, and/or products due to admissions and/or amendments made during prosecution of the patents-in-suit.

## **Seventh Affirmative Defense**

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DW's claims for relief for alleged patent infringement (which AMG denies) are barred by equitable doctrines, including the doctrine of unclean hands, waiver, estoppel, and/or laches.

# **Eighth Affirmative Defense**

DW's claims for relief for alleged patent infringement (which AMG denies) are barred because DW's Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

# **Ninth Affirmative Defense**

DW's claims for relief for alleged patent infringement (which AMG denies) are barred by license. As just one example, AMG is a third-party beneficiary to the

AMG's actions complained of in the Complaint, should they constitute infringement of the patentsin-suit (which they do not), would be licensed under that agreement and/or other license agreements. <sup>1</sup>

At least certain of

## **COUNTERCLAIMS**

AMG, by and through its undersigned counsel, hereby asserts these Counterclaims against DW based on the information currently available to it. Should AMG obtain additional information on which to assert additional counterclaims, it will amend these Counterclaims to do so.<sup>2</sup> Upon information and belief, AMG alleges as follows:

# **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

- 1. AMG seeks a declaratory judgment that no valid and enforceable claim of the patentsin-suit are or have been infringed by AMG.
- AMG seeks a declaratory judgment that the claims of the patents-in-suit are invalid for 2. failing to comply with one or more of the requirements of the Patent Laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 1 et seq., including but not limited to §§ 101, 102, 103, and/or 112.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As another example, upon information and belief, there exists a license agreement between Upon information and belief, at least certain of AMG's actions complained of in the Complaint, should they constitute infringement of the patents-in-suit (which they do not), would be licensed under that agreement.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Specifically, but without limitation, AMG intends to amend its Answer and Counterclaims once it has obtained a copy of the license between and confirmed that at least certain of its actions are licensed thereunder. See n.1, supra.

	3.	AMG asserts a claim for breach of contract arising out of a license agreement
		to which AMG is a
hird	-party be	eneficiary.
		THE PARTIES
	4.	AMG is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal place of business at
555 1	2 <sup>th</sup> Stree	et, Ste. 400, Oakland, CA 94607.
	5.	Pursuant to DW's pleading in Paragraph 1 of the Complaint, DW is a Washington
imit	ed liabili	ty company with a principal place of business at 13313 SE 51st St., Bellevue, WA
9800	6.	
		BACKGROUND
	6.	On May 2, 2014, DW filed suit against IAC Search & Media, Inc. ("IAC SM"), no.
2:14-	cv-664 (	(W.D. Wa.) (the "Prior Action").
	7.	AMG was formed as IAC Publishing, LLC in 2016.
	8.	IAC SM is and always has been the sole member of AMG, including when AMG was
know	n as IAC	C Publishing, LLC.
	9.	IAC SM filed its answer to DW's complaint in the Prior Action on August 6, 2014.
<b>D.I.</b> 1	15 in Pri	or Action.
	10.	In talks regarding the Prior Action, the parties to the Prior Action discussed
speci	fically th	was a licensee of the patents-in-suit, and that IAC SM's
activ	ities rela	ting to were therefore licensed.
	11.	In the course of these discussions, DW admitted on October 23, 2014 that "IAC is a
	Parti	ner' under the license] agreement."
	12.	Given these discussions regarding IAC SM's status as a licensed Partner, on
Janua	ary 19, 2	015, DW "offer[ed] a zero dollar walkaway where the parties simply dismiss their
respe	ctive cla	ims without prejudice."
	13.	On February 18, 2015, the parties to the Prior Action filed in that action a Stipulation

and Proposed Order of Dismissal Without Prejudice. D.I. 24 in Prior Action. That stipulation was

so-ordered at D.I. 25 in the Prior Action.

14.	Now, over five years later, DW has retu	rned to the same, still-dry well.	AMG is still
licensed	Partner, and DW's filing of this action	violates both its license to	and
the covenant n	ot to sue therein that explicitly benefits	Partners like AMG.	

# **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 15. Counterclaims I–VI arise under the Patent Laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 101, et seq., and the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201, et seq.
- 16. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over Counterclaims I–VI pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1338(a), 2201, and 2202.
- 17. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over Counterclaim VII because the amount in controversy is over \$75,000 and there is complete diversity of citizenship between the parties.
- 18. This Court has personal jurisdiction over DW at least on the basis of its filing of the Complaint in this Action in this district.
- 19. Venue is proper in this district under at least 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1400(b) and because DW transacts business here and is subject to personal jurisdiction here.

# COUNT I—NONINFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 7,693,956

- 20. AMG incorporates by reference the preceding Paragraphs of these Counterclaims as if fully set forth herein.
  - 21. DW filed suit, alleging in its Complaint that AMG is infringing the '956 patent.
- 22. AMG has not infringed and does not infringe directly or indirectly, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, any valid and enforceable claim of the '956 patent.
- 23. An actual and justiciable case or controversy exists under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202 regarding AMG's noninfringement of the '956 patent because DW filed suit alleging that AMG infringes the '956 patent.
  - 24. AMG has been injured by DW's suit.
- 25. AMG is therefore entitled to a declaratory judgment that it has not and does not infringe the '956 patent.

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## COUNT II—INVALIDITY OF U.S. PATENT NO. 7,693,956

- 26. AMG incorporates by reference the preceding Paragraphs of these Counterclaims as if fully set forth herein.
- 27. One or more claims of the '956 patent are invalid and/or unenforceable for failure to comply with the Patent Laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.*, including, but not limited to, 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and/or 112.
- 28. AMG incorporates by reference as if fully set forth herein its Third Affirmative Defense, set forth in AMG's Answer, above, by way of example only as to the failures of the claims of the '956 patent to comply with, *e.g.*, 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and/or 112.
- 29. An actual and justiciable case or controversy exists under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202 regarding the validity and enforceability of the '956 patent because DW filed suit alleging that the '956 patent is valid and enforceable and alleging that AMG infringes the '956 patent.
  - 30. AMG has been injured by DW's suit.
- 31. AMG is therefore entitled to a declaratory judgment that the '956 patent is invalid and/or unenforceable pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and/or 112.

# **COUNT III—NONINFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 8,321,529**

- 32. AMG incorporates by reference the preceding Paragraphs of these Counterclaims as if fully set forth herein.
  - 33. DW filed suit, alleging in its Complaint that AMG is infringing the '529 patent.
- 34. AMG has not infringed and does not infringe directly or indirectly, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, any valid and enforceable claim of the '529 patent.
- 35. An actual and justiciable case or controversy exists under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202 regarding AMG's noninfringement of the '529 patent because DW filed suit alleging that AMG infringes the '529 patent.
  - 36. AMG has been injured by DW's suit.
- 37. AMG is therefore entitled to a declaratory judgment that it has not and does not infringe the '529 patent.

#### COUNT IV—INVALIDITY OF U.S. PATENT NO. 8,321,529

- 38. AMG incorporates by reference the preceding Paragraphs of these Counterclaims as if fully set forth herein.
- 39. One or more claims of the '529 patent are invalid and/or unenforceable for failure to comply with the Patent Laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.*, including, but not limited to, 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and/or 112.
- 40. AMG incorporates by reference as if fully set forth herein its Third Affirmative Defense, set forth in AMG's Answer, above, by way of example only as to the failures of the claims of the '529 patent to comply with, e.g., 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and/or 112.
- 41. An actual and justiciable case or controversy exists under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202 regarding the validity and enforceability of the '529 patent because DW filed suit alleging that the '529 patent is valid and enforceable and alleging that AMG infringes the '529 patent.
  - 42. AMG has been injured by DW's suit.
- 43. AMG is therefore entitled to a declaratory judgment that the '529 patent is invalid and/or unenforceable pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and/or 112.

# **COUNT V—NONINFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT NO. 8,645,493**

- 44. AMG incorporates by reference the preceding Paragraphs of these Counterclaims as if fully set forth herein.
  - 45. DW filed suit, alleging in its Complaint that AMG is infringing the '493 patent.
- 46. AMG has not infringed and does not infringe directly or indirectly, either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, any valid and enforceable claim of the '493 patent.
- 47. An actual and justiciable case or controversy exists under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202 regarding AMG's noninfringement of the '493 patent because DW filed suit alleging that AMG infringes the '493 patent.
  - 48. AMG has been injured by DW's suit.
- 49. AMG is therefore entitled to a declaratory judgment that it has not and does not infringe the '493 patent.

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#### COUNT VI—INVALIDITY OF U.S. PATENT NO. 8,645,493

- 50. AMG incorporates by reference the preceding Paragraphs of these Counterclaims as if fully set forth herein.
- 51. One or more claims of the '493 patent are invalid and/or unenforceable for failure to comply with the Patent Laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 1 *et seq.*, including, but not limited to, 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and/or 112.
- 52. AMG incorporates by reference as if fully set forth herein its Third Affirmative Defense, set forth in AMG's Answer, above, by way of example only as to the failures of the claims of the '493 patent to comply with, *e.g.*, 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and/or 112.
- 53. An actual and justiciable case or controversy exists under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202 regarding the validity and enforceability of the '493 patent because DW filed suit alleging that the '493 patent is valid and enforceable and alleging that AMG infringes the '493 patent.
  - 54. AMG has been injured by DW's suit.
- 55. AMG is therefore entitled to a declaratory judgment that the '493 patent is invalid and/or unenforceable pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and/or 112.

## COUNT VII—BREACH OF CONTRACT

- 56. AMG incorporates by reference the allegations of each forgoing Paragraph as if set forth fully herein.
- 57. Attached hereto as Exhibit 1 is the Settlement and License Agreement made between License").
  - 58. The License is a valid, binding, and enforceable agreement.
  - 59. Upon information and belief, performed and met its obligations under the

License.

- 60. License § I.B defines Partner" as
- 61. AMG is both a customer and user of
- 62. DW admitted on October 23, 2014 that IAC Search & Media, Inc. is a

Partner' under the license] agreement."

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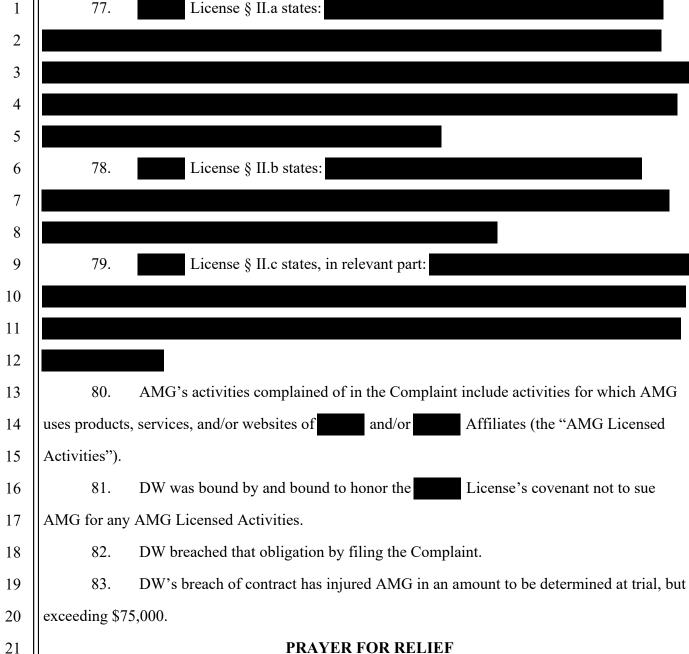
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# **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, AMG respectfully requests that this Court:

- A. Enter a declaratory judgment that AMG has not infringed and does not infringe, either directly or indirectly, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, any valid and enforceable claim of the patents-in-suit;
- B. Enter a declaratory judgment that claims of the patents-in-suit are invalid and/or unenforceable;

- C. Enter a declaratory judgment that by bringing this action DW breached the License and must abide by the terms of the License;
- D. Declare this case exceptional under 35 U.S.C. § 285 and award AMG its costs and attorneys' fees incurred in connection with this Action;
- E. Award AMG damages on its breach of contract counterclaim in an amount to be determined at trial, but exceeding \$75,000;
- F. Award AMG its costs of suit; and
- G. Award AMG such other or additional relief as the Court deems just and proper.

# **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

AMG hereby demands a jury trial on all issues so triable.

Date: June 15, 2020 SINGER CASHMAN LLP

By:<u>/s/ Evan Budaj</u>

Benjamin L. Singer Evan Budaj

Attorneys for Ask Media Group, LLC